



# PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

8500 N. ATLAS ROAD  
HAYDEN, IDAHO 83835  
<http://www.phd1.idaho.gov>

October 7, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, a new influenza virus, called the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, was first identified in the United States in late April 2009. The virus has caused illness ranging from mild to severe, including hospitalizations and deaths in adults and children. Many children have gotten 2009 H1N1 infection and there have been large outbreaks in some schools across the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has recommended that children and young adults aged 6 months through 24 years be vaccinated against 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine is available.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from this potentially serious disease. Panhandle Health District is working with your child's school to offer the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine to children at school. We will be holding voluntary vaccination clinics starting in mid-October and going through mid-December. **The school will let you know the date and time your child's school clinic is scheduled.**

Included in this packet is additional information about the H1N1 vaccines and a consent form allowing you to consent to the vaccination for your child. ***If you do not complete the consent form, sign it, and return it to your child's school, the vaccination will not be given to your child.*** If you choose to complete this consent form, please return it to your child's school as soon as possible.

Children under the age of 10 are expected to need two doses of vaccine spaced about 3 weeks apart. Children age 10 and over will only need one dose of vaccine. There will be no cost to you for this vaccine. *To minimize any stress associated with a shot, we plan to offer the nasal spray type of vaccine to all eligible elementary students while supplies last.* If your child would benefit by your presence at the vaccination clinic, please feel free to attend.

If you have any questions about the vaccine or the vaccination clinics, please call: 208-415-5180 from 8 AM to 5 PM. Please visit the CDC's 2009 H1N1 influenza web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> and also <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents> for information especially for parents. Your child's health care provider also can answer your questions about the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and will be able to give your child the seasonal influenza vaccine and may be able to give your child the 2009 H1N1 vaccine if you so choose.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Bock  
Director